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Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337-5099

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Keith Koehler
Telephone: 757-824-1579
Keith.A.Koehler.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

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ARCADIA MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATING IN NASA FLIGHT PROJECT

Students from Arcadia Middle School in Oak Hall, Va., will experience the thrill of conducting launch operations and a science mission during a workshop March 15 at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Students will actively participate in the launch of a weather balloon, conduct operations from the NASA mission control center, and monitor the data as it is received from the science instruments during the flight.

During the workshop, students and their teachers will experience the complexities, coordination and teamwork required to conduct a flight science mission, whether it's using a balloon or a rocket.

Also, earlier in the week NASA personnel will visit the school and work with students to prepare experiment samples for flight on a future scientific balloon mission. During this future mission, the experiment samples will fly for 12 to 24 hours at nearly 30 miles altitude.

After the experiment samples are returned, students will be able to compare the flight samples that have flown at the outer edge of Earth's atmosphere to their control samples that will remain at the school.

Arcadia is 1 of 150 NASA Explorer Schools, nationwide. Over a three-year period the schools partner with NASA to increase student interest, performance and participation in science, mathematics, and technology fields of study and careers.

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